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from  
*Adams County*

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

November 2, 2018

## In this issue...

Page 2



Health Insurance Open  
Season  
Budget

Page 3



Armistice Day Bell Tolling  
Closing Loophole to  
Benefit PA Tourism

Page 3



Get Out and Vote  
The End



## *Human Services* Dedication Date Change

The Adams County Human Services Building dedication has been changed to **Monday, November 26 at 12:00.** The change from the original date of November 14 was necessary due to scheduling conflicts. The county and the court invite staff and residents to attend, in celebration of this exceptional venue that will serve Adams County residents for decades. The building houses or will house Children & Youth Services, MHIDD, Court Operations, IT, Probation, Domestic Relations, Magistrate Beauchat, Magistrate Harvey, Central Court and Maintenance Receiving.

Following the program there will be a tour of the building in areas that can be accessed by the public. Light refreshments will be served. Please join us as we dedicate this wonderful addition that will more efficiently serve our staff and residents in the future!



## Health Insurance Open Season

It's benefit season again and Open Enrollment is scheduled for November 15 through November 30, 2018. Open season will be an on-line process using your ADP Portal just like last year. *We are not changing any benefits or providers for 2019.*

While the County of Adams does everything possible to keep the cost of health benefits down, and offers good coverage at a very fair cost, most staff will see an increase to the cost of your plan this year. The family coverage with a \$250 deductible has increased the most. A high deductible health plan is an option for employees to lower costs for premiums while taking on the possible additional deductible.

It is important for you to decide whether or not it is beneficial for you pay the additional money for a \$250 deductible versus a \$1,000 deductible. Keep in mind co-pays for personal care physician visits, specialists, and prescriptions do not change when the deductible changes and they DO NOT apply to your deductible. Regardless of which deductible you choose, consider utilizing the Flexible Spending Account for your known medical expenses.

An insurance expert has been called upon to ensure the County offers fair, equitable, and sustainable insurance options to our employees. The Human Resources Department will be available to assist you with any questions you may have as well as the actual Open Enrollment process. Please, if you don't know your sign on information for your ADP Portal e-mail Lisa Chilcoat at [lchilcoat@adamscounty.us](mailto:lchilcoat@adamscounty.us) no later than 11-9-2018 to retrieve that information.

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## Budget

Budget season is in full swing and we are getting close to completing a tentative budget. The Board will address the tentative adoption of the budget on November 14<sup>th</sup>. The outlook for the upcoming year is good since 2018 is projected to finish in a positive situation and will allow for some carry over into 2019. I know that the Board and administration appreciates the efforts by all the departments and elected officials in keeping within reasonableness the requests and managing their ongoing operations efficiently.

Preliminary information of expenses looks to be less than revenue available therefore producing a positive outlook. However, each year has its challenges and we are looking two and three years ahead and have some concerns. We are asking that departments and elected officials keep that in mind going forward and work diligently to curtail spending and eliminate when possible. Budgets for 2020 and 2021 are projecting to present some concern that we feel can be aided by cuts and efficient operations as we serve the residents of Adams County.





## Armistice Day Bell Tolling

Sunday, November 11 is the remembrance of Armistice Day. This year commemorates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice that ended the fighting in World War I at 11:00 a.m., November 11, 1918—the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month. As part of that 100<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary, the United States World War 1 Centennial Commission is sponsoring and promoting “A National Tolling of the Bells to Honor Those Who Served in the Great War.” Adams County will take part in the remembrance by tolling the bells on the historic courthouse on the eleventh month, the eleventh day, at the eleventh hour.

A century ago 4.7 million American families sent their sons and daughters off to World War I and of that number, 1,098 were from Adams County. The resources of an entire nation were brought to bear on the war effort and in Adams County, residents participated in scrap drives, victory gardens and hosted soldiers from the 1917 Infantry training camp and 1918 U. S. Tank Corps training camp, Camp Colt, commanded by Captain Dwight D. Eisenhower. By the end of the war 116,516 Americans gave their lives in the war. Of those that made the supreme sacrifice 53 of them were from Adams County, and more than 200,000 were wounded, 89 of them from Adams County.

There will be a chorus of bells ringing throughout Adams County on November 11. For those of you that were not aware, the bells on the historic courthouse are operated by computer. Bring any unforeseen technical or mechanical problems, listen for the bells ringing 21 times at 11:00AM on November 11. There should also be a chorus of bells ringing throughout Adams County on November 11. When you hear the bells, consider pausing for a moment to honor, remember and give thanks to our veterans!

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## Closing Loophole to Benefit PA Tourism

Hotel occupancy tax is important to Adams County’s economy. Both Adams County & State tourism received a win last week with the Governor signed HB1511. The legislation, known as Act 109 of 2018, closes a loophole in the state’s tax code to ensure fairness in hotel occupancy tax remittance. The legislation requires online travel companies to remit occupancy tax based on the final price paid by consumers, rather than the lower wholesale rate negotiated by the online travel companies.

As part of the legislation, the funds that will result from closing the loophole - estimated at \$23.8 million a year state-wide, will be dedicated to statewide tourism promotion. A 2015 study conducted by the Pennsylvania Restaurant and Lodging Association (PRLA) found that every dollar invested in tourism marketing returns \$3.43 in tax revenue.

Norris Flowers, President of Destination Gettysburg said, "Getting the State Tourism office budget back to a somewhat competitive level with our neighbor states will benefit all Pennsylvania destinations." Over the past 14 years,



the state tourism office budget had dropped dramatically from \$34 million to \$4 million a year.

Act 109 also ensures that hotel occupancy tax is assessed on retail price of hotel rooms at both the state and county level, further ensuring fairness in collection and remittance while giving county destination marketing organizations additional resources for promotion.

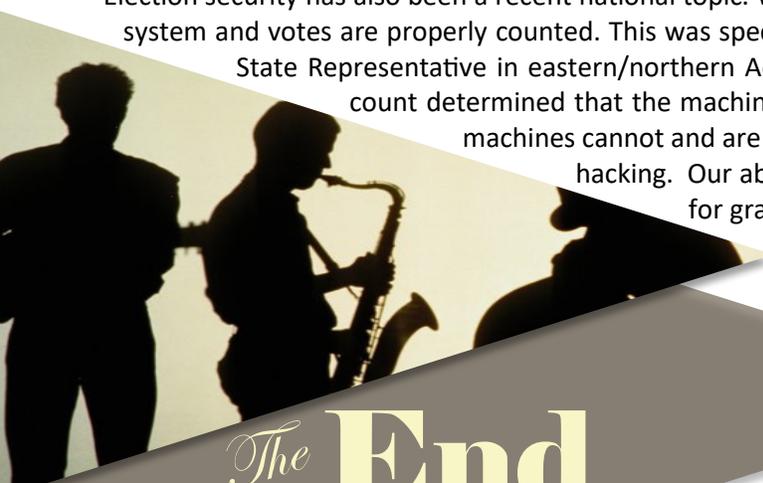
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## Get Out and Vote

For a non-presidential election, the election this Tuesday may result in a larger than normal turn-out. National politics, the gubernatorial election, congressional elections and several local elections seemed to have peaked interest from all sides of the political spectrum. According to Adams County Elections Director Monica Dutko, the Elections and Voter Registration Office has seen a huge influx this election season of newly registered voters, voters changing their party affiliations and applying for absentee ballots.

Since the primary in May, Monica reports an increase of 1,211 newly registered voters in the County, as well as thousands of changes to voter registration records. As of today, the staff has processed over 1,800 absentee ballot applications. The number of absentee ballots that have been returned to our office is over 1,500 with the deadline for the return of the ballots being Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Monica reports that these numbers are highly unusual for this type of mid-term election. Total Registrations: 67,025, Democratic: 19,555, Republican 36,652, Green 92, Libertarian 449, Other Independent 10,275.

Election security has also been a recent national topic. We are confident that in Adams County we have a secure voting system and votes are properly counted. This was specifically illustrated during the spring primary, when the race for State Representative in eastern/northern Adams County came down to one vote – and the ensuing hand count determined that the machine count was 100% correct. Furthermore, Adams County voting machines cannot and are not connected to the internet in any way and are not subject to hacking. Our ability to vote is a fundamental right and privilege that many take for granted. No excuses. Get out there and vote on Tuesday!



The **End**

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There sure is a lot going on during November in Adams County. I do like jazz. The Gettysburg Jazz Festival takes place from November 9-11 at the Majestic Theater, Paul Recital Hall and Gettysburg College Union Building. You can obtain the jazz schedule from the Destination Gettysburg website. On Saturday, November 10, St Francis Xavier is having a Gift Fair & Holiday Bazaar at the Xavier Center. November 11 is Community Appreciation Day at the NPS Visitor Center with Free Admission. Also on November 11, the Adams County Allied Veterans will be conducting their annual Veterans Day Program beginning at 11AM at the Gettysburg American Legion. Harrisburg Area Community College, Gettysburg Campus, will be having a Veterans Day Program with an honor guard ceremony and tree planting on November 12 beginning at 11:00. Remembrance Day Weekend has the parade stepping off at 1:00 from Lefever Street on Saturday, November 17. On Monday, November 19, the Dedication Day speaker at the National Cemetery rostrum this year will be retiring Gettysburg College President Janet Riggs. The program begins with the wreath laying at 10:15.

The Gettysburg Community Theater is finishing its almost sold out run of *The Rocky Horror Show* this Saturday evening and is preparing for its Community Christmas Concert presentations. At the Majestic Theater, from this evening thru Sunday, you can catch *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putman County Spelling Bee*, a delightful musical comedy by the Gettysburg College Theater Arts Department & Sunderman Conservatory. No matter what you do, get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!